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LEWIS COASTAL CHAPEL-SITES SURVEY 2007-8



PROJECT 2593

A University of Glasgow Viking and Early Settlement Archaeological Research Project
Undertaken with funding from
Historic Scotland
and
University of Glasgow

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Teampall Eoin, Bragar: General view from the NE.

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LEWIS COASTAL
CHAPEL-SITES SURVEY 2007-8

PROJECT 2593

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1.0 Executive Summary

Walkover, topographic and geophysical survey was undertaken between March 2007 and February 2008 at the chapel-sites of Teampall Pheadair, Siadar, and Teampall Eoin, Bragar, on the west side of the Isle of Lewis. At Teampall Pheadair, eroding Iron Age structures were recorded below the later chapel. An enclosure and possible grave slabs were recorded from around the chapel-site, as well as the pre-crofting enclosure walls and a corn-drying kiln on the north side of the Teampall. Geophysical survey at this site confirmed the presence of earlier structures below the chapel-site. Topographic survey was carried out of the chapel building and later enclosures at Teampall Eoin, before further collapse of the chapel's walls. The survey also recorded over 2,000 unmarked grave stones in the old cemetery around the Teampall. It involved a detailed contour survey of the sandy mound into which the chapel is set, with different alignments of grave slabs identified, and recorded the locations of roofing slates from the ruined chapel which had been re-used as grave markers. Topographic survey had also been planned at Tigh a'Bheannaich, Aird Uig, but had to be cancelled due to storms.

2.0 Introduction

During the first season of the Lewis Coastal Chapel-sites Survey project (hereafter LCCS), desktop study and walkover survey undertaken in Lewis had identified 37 chapel-sites and made recommendations for the further recording of specific sites at threat from erosion and/or collapse. More detailed topographic survey was recommended for eight sites (Barrowman 2005). In 2005, detailed topographic survey of four of these sites was completed – Teampall Mhealastadh (Uig), Tigh na Cailleachan Dubha (Uig), Teampall Pheadair (Suaineibost, Ness) and the chapel-site on Eilean an Tighe (formerly known as Eilean na Cille) on the Shiant Islands (Barrowman with Hooper 2006). In 2007-8, detailed topographic survey was completed for two of the three remaining sites of highest priority – Teampall Pheadair (Siadar) and Teampall Eoin (Bragar), with geophysical survey also completed for Teampall Pheadair (Siadar). The results of the surveys have aided further interpretation of the rich archaeological remains at these fascinating sites, and have produced a baseline record of them before they collapse or are further eroded. Topographic survey of the third site, at Tigh a'Bheannaich, Aird Uig, had to be cancelled due to a Force 10 gale during the survey.

3.0 Site Location, Topography and Geology

Teampall Pheadair is located above a low cliff on the north side of Mol Eire (Figure 1) on the west coast of Lewis, on a grassy slope at the edge of cultivated croft land beside the shore at Siadar Uarach (Lower Shader). Teampall Eoin is situated further south on the west coast, on the side of a sandy, grass-covered mound in an area of unmarked gravestones in Bragar cemetery at Port Mhòr Bhragair, north of the village of Bragar. The underlying drift geology at Teampall Pheadair consists of glacial till, whilst at Teampall Eoin, the site is situated on windblown sand above the glacial deposits. The solid geology at both sites is Lewisian Gneiss.

4.0 Aims and Objectives of the Fieldwork

The general aims of the 2007-8 fieldwork were to topographically survey Teampall Pheadair, Siadar, Teampall Eoin, Bragar and Tigh a'Bheannaich, Aird Uig and their environs and to geophysically survey Teampall Pheadair and the surrounding area using resistivity and gradiometry.

The specific objectives of the topographic surveys were to:

- Complete topographical survey of Teampall Pheadair, Teampall Eoin and Tigh a'Bheannaich using an electronic total station;
- Survey the immediate areas around each chapel site, as well as the remains of the chapel building itself, to record the larger suite of archaeological remains there – the structures and eroding cliff line at Teampall Pheadair, and the graveyard enclosure and banks surrounding Teampall Eoin, and the ephemeral cellular structures adjacent to Tigh a'Bheannaich;
- Record descriptions and take a full photographic record of all archaeological remains at Teampall Pheadair and Teampall Eoin (already completed for Tigh a'Bheannaich during the 2004-5 walkover survey), and

- Process the survey data and produce accurate survey plans of the sites and their environs, and incorporate them in a report on the site, with the descriptions, photographic record and relevant observations noted during the survey.

The general aims of the geophysical survey were to:

- Survey the upstanding remains of Teampall Pheadair;
- Determine the extent of the church enclosure;
- Locate and determine the general nature of any other archaeological remains in the vicinity of Teampall Pheadair, and
- Attempt to locate any graves associated with Teampall Pheadair.

5.0 Methodologies

5.1 *Walkover Survey*

Prior to the instrument surveys, further walkover survey was undertaken at Teampall Pheadair and Teampall Eoin, as this had not been completed in 2004 (Barrowman 2005, 26-8; 30-32). Local residents were also visited and the author is very grateful for the local traditions and memories they shared (in particular Dr Finlay MacLeod, Shawbost and Mr Calum MacDonald, Lower Siadar). Their information adds to the desk-based research already undertaken in the first year of the project (Barrowman 2005), and to the features that can be seen, sometimes only ephemerally, on the ground. A full photographic record was taken at each site and is listed in Appendix B. A small number of stray finds were collected and are listed, together with stray finds from previous years' survey, in Appendix A. Tigh a'Bheannaich had been visited, recorded and photographed during the walkover survey in 2004 (Barrowman 2005, 46-50).

5.2 *Topographic Survey*

with Charlotte Francoz

The sites at Teampall Pheadair, Siadar and Teampall Eoin, Bragar were surveyed using a Leica TCR 1205 total station, and the methodology was the same as that used by the Ness Archaeological Landscape Survey (Arthur 2007). At each site, the archaeological features were recorded by the surveyor operating the instrument and the archaeologist using a staff with a reflective prism to record the visible features. Once the archaeological detail was recorded, a series of spot height recordings were taken to provide a contour survey of each site. At Teampall Eoin, these spot heights were taken on the ground surface adjacent to each gravestone in the old churchyard (over 2,000 stones), so that the readings recorded the positions of gravestones as well as the detailed contours of the site. A DPGS was not available for this survey, so instead several fixed features, such as jetties, fence lines and cemetery walls, marked on the Ordnance Survey (OS) survey, were recorded at each location to position each survey relative to the OS National Grid.

The data were then downloaded for processing using Leica's LISCAD (7.0) software. After initial processing in LISCAD, the maps were exported to AutoCAD (2005) for finishing.

5.3 *Geophysical Survey*

by Christine Rennie

The resistivity survey was carried out using a Geoscan RM15D resistivity meter with a twin probe array. The separation of the mobile probes was 0.5 m, allowing readings to be taken up to 0.5 m below ground level. The gradiometry survey was carried out using a Geoscan FM256 fluxgate gradiometer with two internal sensors. This instrument allows readings to be taken approximately 0.75 m below ground level.

A series of 10 m by 10 m grids were set out along a baseline that was slightly off a north/south axis. This was done to ensure that any east/west aligned linear features, such as grave cuts, were more likely to be detected than if the survey was oriented to true north. In an attempt to detect these smaller features, readings were taken every 0.5 m on both the X and Y axis, giving 400 readings for each grid.

6.0 Results

6.1 Introduction

The eight sites that were recommended for further topographic (EDM) survey and the three recommended for geophysical survey in the first season of LCCS (Barrowman 2005) are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Lewis Chapel-Sites for Which Topographic (EDM) and Geophysical Survey Work was Recommended in 2004-5

LCCS Site No	Site Name	NGR	Type of Survey Recommended in 2004-5	Survey Undertaken?	Date
1	Teampall Ronaìdh, Ness		Geophysical survey	✗	March 2006
3	Teampall Thòmais, Habost		Geophysical survey	✓ (NALS)	March 2007
4	Teampall Pheadair, Suainebost		Topographic (EDM) survey	✓	February 2005
8	Teampall Pheadair, Siadar		Topographic and geophysical survey	✓	February 2008
10	Teampall Eoin, Bragar		Topographic survey	✓	February 2008
18	Tìgh a’Bheannaich, Aird Uig		Topographic (EDM) survey	✗	
20	Teampall Mhealastadh		Topographic (EDM) survey	✓	February 2005
21	Taigh nan Cailleachan Dubha		Topographic (EDM) survey	✓	February 2005
32	St Mary’s, Eilean an tìghe, Shiant Isles		Topographic (EDM) survey	✓	June 2005
33	Airigh nan Annaidean, Garbh Eilean, Shiant Isles		Topographic (EDM) survey	✗	

Of these ten sites, two – at Teampall Ronaìdh in Eoropic, Ness and Teampall Thòmais in Habost, Ness – have been surveyed by the Ness Archaeological Landscape Survey (NALS), the survey element of the Dùn Èistean Archaeology Project (DEAP), which covered the whole of the northern part of Ness (Barrowman C 2006; 2007a; 2007b). Teampall Ronaìdh was assessed for geophysical survey, but the presence of a croft fence across the building precluded the use of a gradiometer there. Geophysical survey was, however, undertaken over the mound at Teampall Thòmais (Barrowman C 2007b, 42) with potentially promising results. A possible rectangular building was identified, but strong anomalies identified by the gradiometer survey resulting from the natural bedrock overwhelmed the subtle potential archaeological features.

Five further topographic (EDM) surveys were recommended: at Teampall Pheadair, Suainebost, Ness; at Teampall Mhealastadh and Taigh nan Cailleachan Dubha in Mealastadh in Uig, and at St Mary’s on Eilean an Tìghe and Airigh nan Annaidean on Garbh Eilean in the Shiant Isles. These were undertaken in 2005 (Barrowman with Hooper 2006), with the exception of Garbh Eilean, due to bad weather.

The remaining three sites, Teampall Pheadair, Siadar, Teampall Eoin, Bragar and Taigh a’Bheannaich, Aird Uig, were prioritised in 2007-8, although bad weather prevented work at Taigh a’Bheannaich (see above).

6.2 Walkover Survey

6.2.1 Teampall Pheadair, Siadar

The following information is reproduced from the 2004-5 report to provide the context for the survey (Barrowman 2005, 26-8). Teampall Pheadair in Siadar (NMRS Number: NB35SE 10; NGR: NB 3792 5499) is listed by Martin Martin as ‘Church of St Peter in Shiadir’ (1703, 27), and the Rev Donald MacDonald in *The Statistical Account of Scotland 1791-99* lists ‘St Peter’s in Lower Strather.’

This site is identified on the 1st edition map (1853) and in the Ordnance Survey Name Books (Book No 5C, 10) as:

Teampull Pheadair. An old burying place with the site of a place of worship. It is upwards of a hundred years since anyone was buried here, except a sailor who was cast ashore about 40 years ago. The site of the church is pointed out by the natives who reside in the locality. It is not more than forty years since the gable ends were standing. There are no traditionary stories regarding either church or grave yard: nor can any further information be collected respecting its antiquity. It would appear from the word Pheadair, Peter, that the church was dedicated to Saint Peter.

The RCAHMS also visited the site on 11 July 1914 and described:

Teampull Pheadair ('Peter'), Shader – On the shore at the northern extremity of Mol Eire, some $\frac{3}{4}$ mile north-west of Upper Shader, and about 15 yards from the edge of the rock Craig Gille Phadruig, on which it is built, are the grass-covered foundations of Teampull Pheadair, orientated east-south-east and west-north-west, and measuring about 33½ feet in length outside. It seems to have consisted of a nave and chancel, as 22 feet from the western end, where the northern wall has been laid bare by agricultural operations, there is a return of 2 feet 2 inches in the wall. The nave being about 16 feet 8 inches wide outside, the chancel would be about 12 feet 4 inches wide externally and about 11½ feet in length. Where laid bare the northern wall remains from 1 foot 3 inches to 2 feet 3 inches in height.

The OS visited the site on 18 June 1969 and noted that:

The turf-covered footing of Teampull Pheadair, in which can be seen stretches of the outer wall face, indicate a nave and chancel oriented E-W. Externally the nave measures 7.8 m E – W by 5.0 m transversely, and the chancel 2.6 m E-W by 3.4 m transversely. No internal features survive. The name is still known locally.

The RCAHMS (NB35 NE3) also noted the occurrence of an 'annaid' place name in the vicinity of Teampull Pheadair in Siadar:

Na h'Annaidean, Shader – The name Na h'Annaidean ('the Annaits') is applied to a stretch of green pasture extending inland about 200 yards from the shore, about ½ mile north-east of Teampull Pheadair. Near the top of the grassy stretch is Tobar Aindreas (St Andrew's Well), now filled up. This well, mentioned by Martin, was quite defined 20 years ago.

Ponting, Ponting and Eames record an eroding midden and a stone structure (NB35 SE11) at the shore at the chapel site (Ponting *et al* 1977). The OS visited the eroding midden under the church site on 20 June 1969 and noted:

In the cliff face at NB 3793 5497, there is a layer of midden material about 1 foot below the present ground level, containing shells, animal bones and pottery sherds, the latter classified by Stevenson (RBK Stevenson, NMAS) as Iron Age 'bead-rim' ware. There are traces of rough walling protruding through the cliff indicative of a habitation site.

The Western Isles archaeologist visited the site of the chapel and the eroding midden in July 1999, as it is recorded on the Coastal Erosion Assessment, Lewis (Burgess and Church 1997) as eroding, and noted that it is not imminently threatened, but could be in the next decade. The monument was scheduled in 1992 and '...comprises a small medieval settlement, including the remains of a chapel dedicated to St Peter, underlain by Iron Age midden deposits. The area to be scheduled is irregular and measures a maximum of 120 m NW-SE by 50 m transversely to include the chapel, prehistoric midden and medieval settlement.'

Dr Finlay Macleod records that St Andrew's Well, one of the most important wells in the Western Isles (2000, 28), can be found east of the chapel, while Tobar Mhoire (Mary's well) is slightly to the south of it (1997, 17). He also records that 'Rubha na h-Annaid' lies 100 yards east of the chapel and the large stones which are called Clachan na h-Annaid are about 100 yards south of Rubha na h-Annaid, near St Andrew's Well. This is also described by Robson (1997, 80 -84).

During the survey in 2008, Mr Calum MacDonald of Lower Siadar was kind enough to share valuable and interesting local traditions and memories concerning the site at Teampall Pheadair in Siadar. Local

residents also visited Teampall Pheadair whilst the topographic survey was ongoing, and added to or confirmed Mr MacDonald's observations.

Mr MacDonald and Dr MacLeod have both referred to the 'Annaid' place-name to the north of Teampall Pheadair (see MacLeod 1997, 17). MacLeod recorded '*Rubha na h-Annaid*' and '*Clachan na h-Annaid*', and Mr MacDonald recorded '*Annaid a-muigh*', as well as '*Annaid a-staigh*' as a way of referring to the area towards the shore north of Teampall Pheadair. In addition, there is a local tradition of '*Cill a'fhrangais*', and '*Creag a'fhrangais*' for a circular rocky formation out in the bay at Mol Eire to the south of the chapel. The chapel itself was also known locally as '*Eaglais Phadraig*', and it is generally thought that Teampall Pheadair is a later coinage; although there is no documentation to back this up, it is a very interesting observation in reference to other sites. MacLeod records '*Creag Gille Phadraig*' beside the chapel, and '*Clach an t-Sagairt*' on the shore, now eroded away (MacLeod 1997, 17). There are also local traditions that there was a smithy built on to the chapel enclosure, and that all the lime for the chapel was made on the site. Interesting to note in this context are the Rev. Headrick's observations, made in letters to Lord Seaforth in 1800, that:

Clay-marl appears again in various places along the coast of Shadir, where it resumes a better quality, and seems connected with limestone. My reason for thinking so is, that we picked pieces of limestone at a part where the clay-marl had fallen down, and which were evidently detached from a stratum by the fall of the bank.

Headrick 1800, 15-16



Plate 1:

Teampall Pheadair, Siadar: Structure eroding in cliff at Rubha Bhlansgaidh from W.

It was generally observed by all local visitors during the survey that a considerable amount of coastal erosion had taken place at the site within living memory, from stories handed down from parents and grandparents (that is, back to the end of the nineteenth century). Up to 30 metres is said to have been eroded away from the north side of Mol Eire where Teampall Pheadair is situated. While this may be an exaggeration, on the ground the appearance of the flat, rocky foreshore does suggest that there has been a considerable loss of land to the sea on this side of the bay. There are memories of cattle grazing on this area, which is now underwater at all but low tide, and also of there being burials here that have since eroded away. Human remains, pottery, bone and carbonised material have also been noted eroding out of the cliff section on the north side of Mol Eire, an area recorded in the SMR as '*Rubha Bhlansgaidh*', and pottery sherds found during the OS visit to the site in 1969 were identified by RBK Stevenson as Iron Age (see Barrowman 2005, 27). Pottery, burnt bone and shell midden were all noted eroding from the cliff section between the east part of the survey area and a small geo to the north of the chapel building. Walling is present in the cliff section at several places, and corresponds to areas of low eroded structures and walling at the south part of the survey area (Plates 1 and 2, and Figure 2 below). A shallow scoop

observed at the cliff edge here was also pointed out during the walkover as being all that remained of a large cairn of stones, *Carn Mor*, which had once existed at the site, and which was known locally as a burial cairn. The stones were removed during the last century for road or bridge building. At the geo at the north edge of the site, the sea is now eroding behind the cliff section (Plate 3), and further pressure on the site in the near future is inevitable.



Plate 2:

Teampall Pheadair, Siadar: Structure eroding in cliff at Rubha Bblanisgaidh from W.



Plate 3:

Teampall Pheadair, Siadar: Eroding geo north of chapel from W.

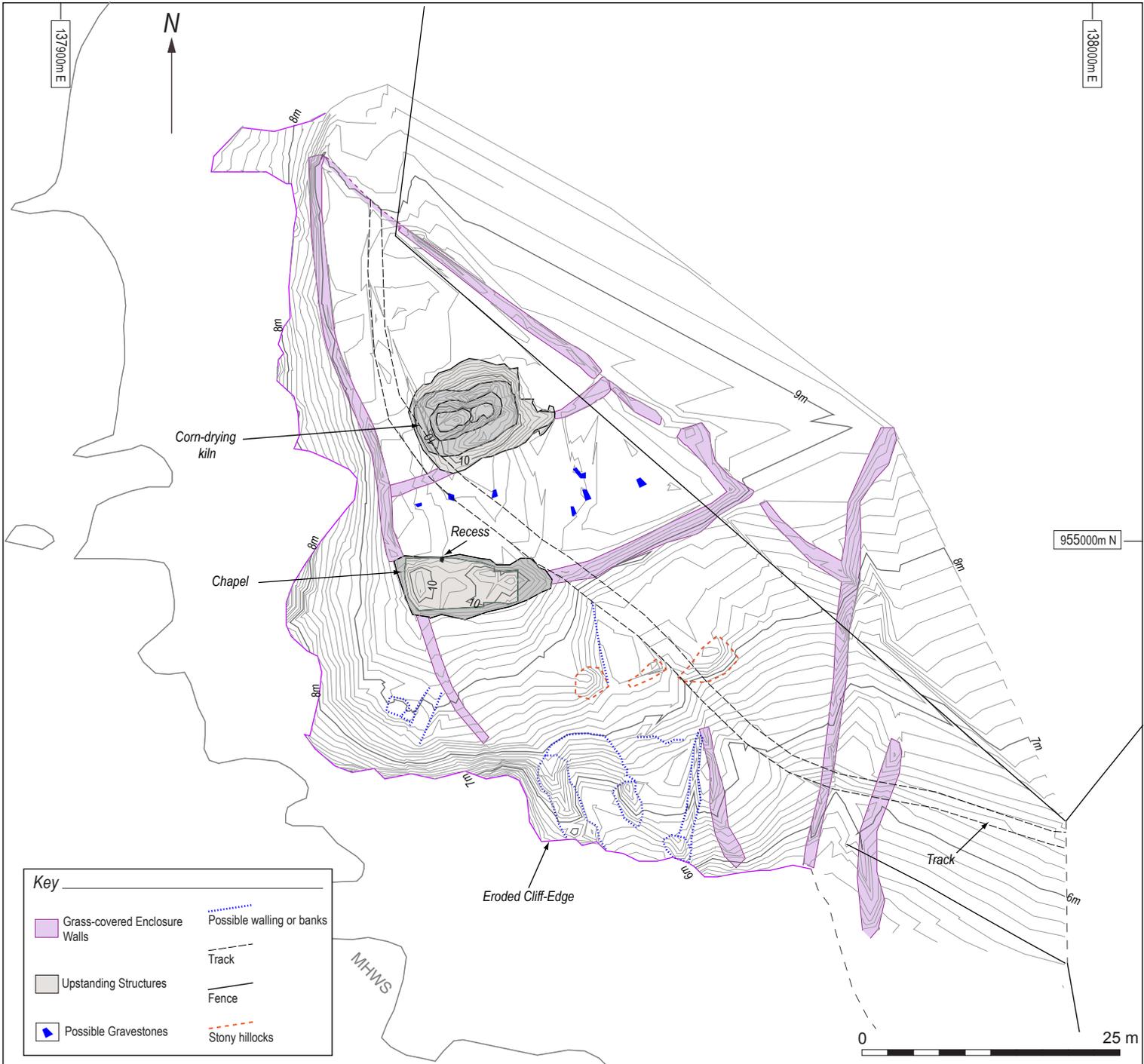
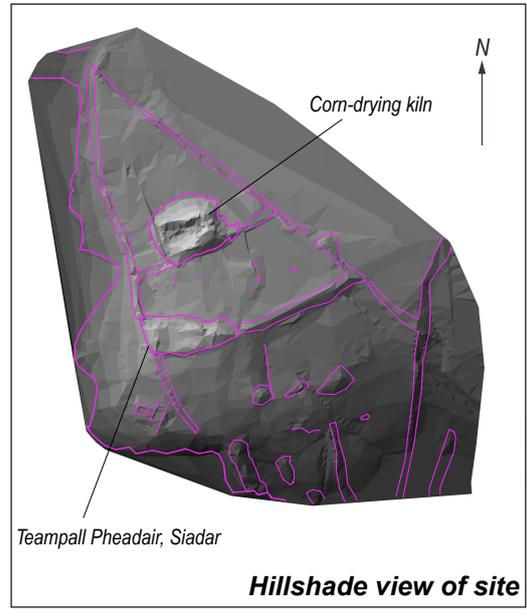
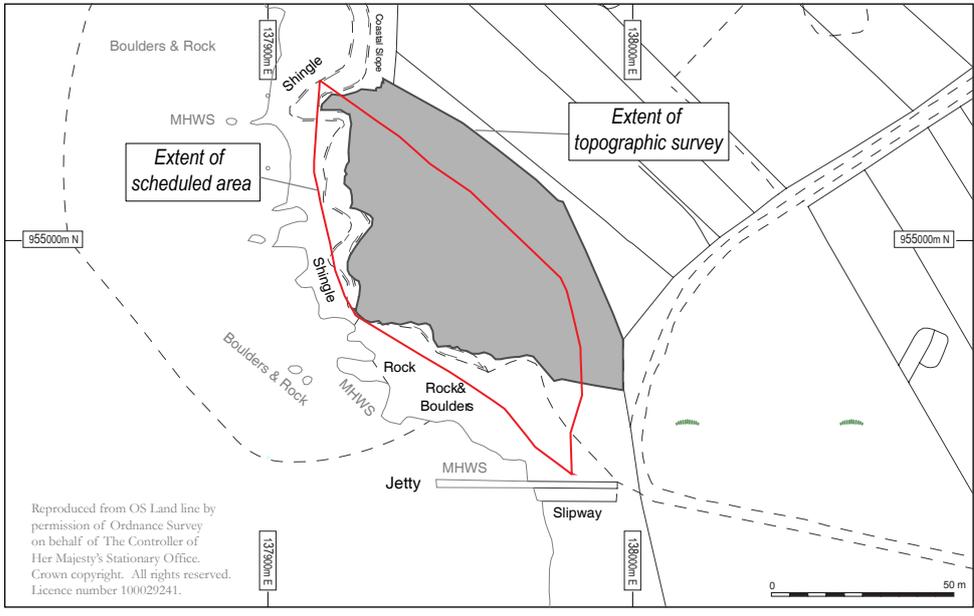


Figure 2: Results of topographic survey at Teampall Pheadair, Siadar.



Plate 4:

Teampall Eoin: Roof slate grave marker 1 from SE.



Plate 5:

Teampall Eoin: Roof slate grave marker 2 close up from SE.

6.2.2 *Teampall Eoin, Bragar*

The following information is reproduced from the 2004-5 report to set the context for the survey work (Barrowman 2005, 30-32). Teampall Eoin, Bragar (NMRS Number: NB24NE 3, NGR: NB 2882 4890) is listed as ‘St John the Baptist in Bragar’ by Martin Martin (1703, 27), and the Rev Donald MacDonal in *The Statistical Account of Scotland 1791-99* (270), lists ‘St John the Baptist’s in Bragir’. The site is identified on the 1st edition map (1853) and Name Book (Book No 8C, 9) as:

Teampull Eoin. The ruins of an old church or chapel. The walls are all nearly dilapidated, except one on the west side near the sea. A grave yard is attached to the ruins. Teampull Eoin signifies John’s or St John’s temple.

The ‘Church of John the Baptist, South Bragar, Lewis’ is described, in McGibbon and Ross 1896, vol 1, 95: ‘Not much wasted; consisting of chancel and nave; respectively 12 feet 8 inches and 19 feet 10 inches long inside, with flat-headed windows – one east and one south in chancel, and one in west end of nave. Chancel arch and south-west doorway broken; former seems to have been pointed.’ The description is taken from Muir (1885, 42).

The RCAHMS visited the site on 30 June 1921 and made a full description of the church building (Figure 41 shows the interior, looking west, with the chancel arch in place; it has since fallen):

Teampull Eoin (‘John’), Bragor – Within a graveyard on the eastern shore of Port More, Bragor, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile north of Bragor village, is the ruin of Teampull Eoin. It consists of a nave and chancel built of rough rubble, and the main axis lies nearly north-west by south-east, being 24 degrees from the direction of true east and west. The nave dimensions average 19 feet 9 inches by 11 feet internally, with walls from 2 feet 5 inches to 3 feet 5 inches in thickness. The gables are 11 feet 2 inches from floor to apex, and the side walls 6 feet high. It is entered by a door in the west end of the south wall, the west jamb, which has been checked, only remaining with square sconsons. A single flat-headed window, 3 feet 9 inches from floor to sill and 2 feet 11 inches high by 4 inches externally, splayed inwardly to a width of 1 foot 8 inches, is placed in the centre of the west gable. An opening through the 3-foot wall at the east end of the nave, the full width of the chancel and very much broken, has no doubt been the chancel arch, which seems to have had its springing about 2 feet 3 inches from the present floor level. The chancel, measuring internally about 9 feet long by 6 feet 10 inches wide, is lower than the nave, reaching only to a height of 7 feet 4 inches at the gable, which has in the centre a window 1 foot wide by 1 foot 3 inches deep are in the walls at ground level, one in the north-east and one in the south-west of the chancel. The building may be of 15th century date.

The OS visited the site on 17 June 1969 and recorded that ‘Teampull Eoin occupies a knoll within the enlarged grave-yard and is as described by the Commission, except that the arch shown in the photograph is now tumbled.’ The site was scheduled in 1977. The local Sites and Monuments Record notes that pottery, animal bones and worked stones have been found in the vicinity of the graveyard (SMR no 235).

Teampall Eoin, Bragar was visited with Dr Finlay MacLeod in February 2008, who noted that the chapel is known by two names: St John’s Chapel and *Cill Sgàire*, with *Sgàire* being a personal Norse name found in Lewis and St John’s Chapel the newer, more Roman name (MacLeod, 1997, 19). He also pointed out the remains of an old village next to the graveyard and a kitchen midden above the shoreline, eroding from the grassy cliff to the west of the graveyard, beside the track leading up to the modern graveyard gate. This midden, however, is not eroding at such a rate as that at Teampall Pheadair, as there is concrete sea protection at the base of the cliff and the upper part of the slope is colonised by marram grass, with only rabbit burrowing presenting a threat in some small erosion scars. One sherd of coarse pottery was found on the surface of an erosion scar (Appendix A).

Dr MacLeod also pointed out three perforated sandstone roofing slates that have been used as grave markers in the old graveyard (Plates 4 to 6); another four were identified during the topographic survey (Plates 7 to 9). These slates were recorded in *DES* by Mr Jim Crawford (Crawford 2007, 173):

NB 28843 48882 5m from the E gable of the Teampall are three grave markers with pierced holes, which are clearly former roof slates with wooden peg holes, and the possibility exists that these are from the former roof of the Teampall, which would indicate that the roof was slated.



Plate 6:
Teampall Eoin, Bragar: Roof slate grave marker 3 from E.



Plate 7:
Teampall Eoin, Bragar: Roof slate grave marker 4 close up from SE.



Plate 8:

Teampall Eoin, Bragar: Roof slate grave markers 5 and 6 from SE.



Plate 9:

Teampall Eoin, Bragar: Roof slate grave marker 6 close up from NW.

6.3 *Teampall Pheadair, Siadar*

6.3.1 *Topographic Survey*

The area around Teampall Pheadair is enclosed by a series of low turf and stone enclosure walls that define a triangular area around the chapel site, which is in turn divided into three smaller parts (Figure 2). The Teampall itself is situated in the south-west corner of a small rectangular enclosure, measuring around 28 m by 13 m, in the centre of the triangular area (Plate 10). The interior faces of the building's walls are obscured by slump, and the Teampall has the appearance of a low, grassy, wedge-shaped mound, with the turf-covered wall aligned east to west (Plate 11). The outer faces of the north and south walls are visible, and the stones forming the south-west and north-west corners of the nave are traceable through the turf where the nave meets the chancel. The building measures externally up to 11 m east to west and 5 m north to south, with the nave 8 m long, and the narrower chancel 3 m east to west and 3 m north to south. There is a small, semi-circular recess in the outer face of the north nave wall, near its east end,

which may held a stoup. Holy water stoups are often found near the doorways in churches, but due to the collapse and slump of the walls it is difficult to see on the ground where the doorway would have been at Teampall Pheadair. The east wall of the chancel is also difficult to define, as it has slumped into the conjoining south enclosure wall. North and east of the chapel building, seven possible gravestones were recorded (e.g., Plate 12), although the size and position of the four examples on the east side of the track make it unlikely that these are grave markers, as they are all large stones and do not appear to be very deeply buried.



*Plate 10:
Teampall Pheadair chapel (on the left), with enclosure and corn-drying kiln from E.*



*Plate 11:
Teampall Pheadair from E.*



Plate 12:
Teampall Pheadair, Siadar: Possible gravestone from above.



Plate 13:
Teampall Pheadair, Siadar: Corn-drying kiln from NW.

A second upstanding structure was also recorded in the survey area, to the north of the Teampall. This is a corn-drying kiln, built onto the north wall of the small rectangular enclosure around the Teampall (Plate 13). The kiln is better preserved than the Teampall and, although collapsed, the building can be traced clearly. It measures around 10 m by 5 m overall, aligned north-east to south-west, although the mound of structural collapse overall measures 12.5 m by 10 m. The kiln, kiln platform and flue can still be discerned inside the structure; the kiln is clearly later than the Teampall, as it is more upstanding and built onto the chapel enclosure.

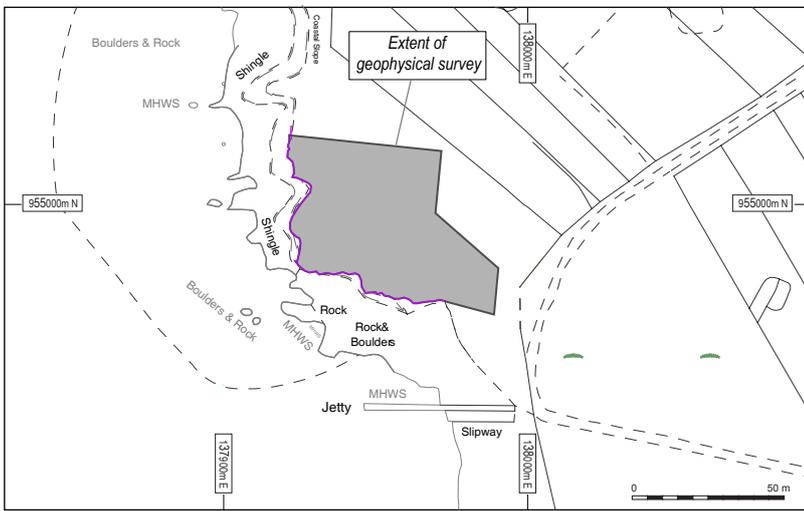
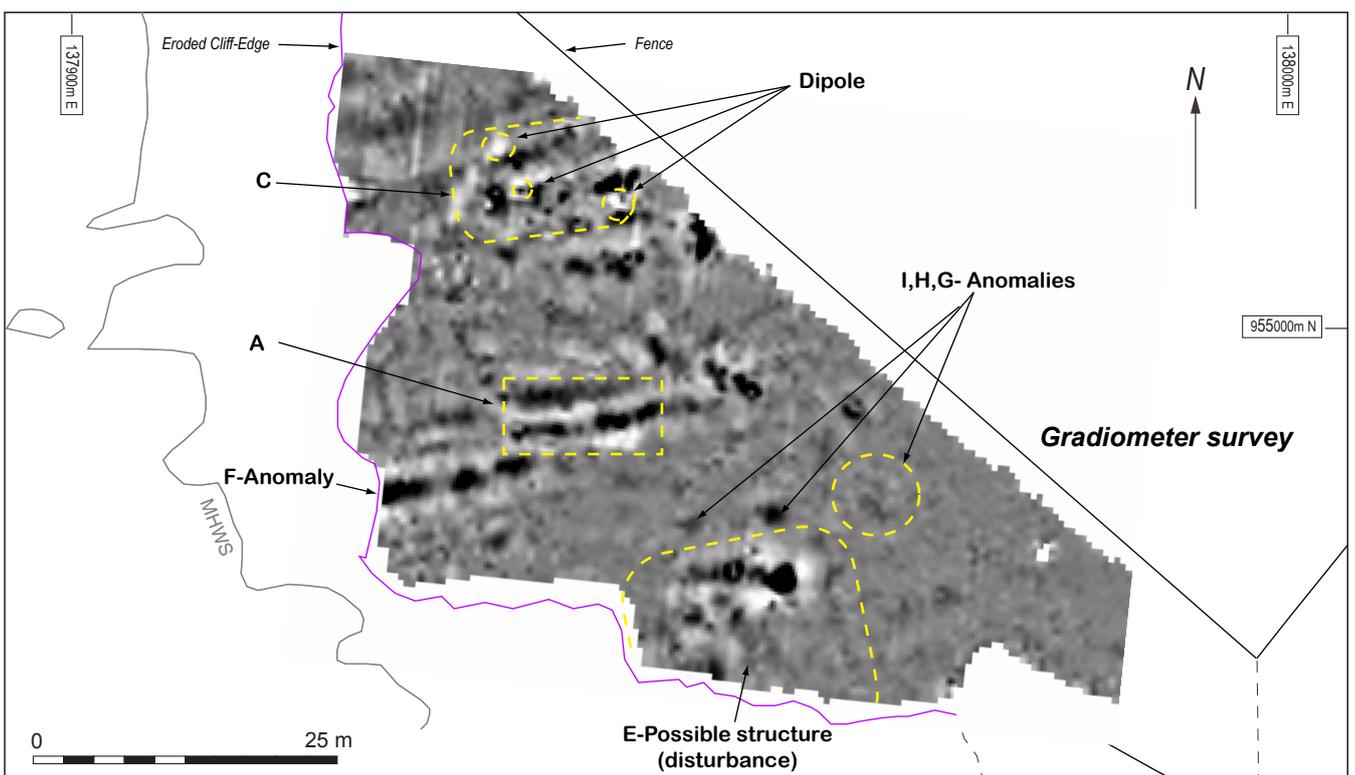
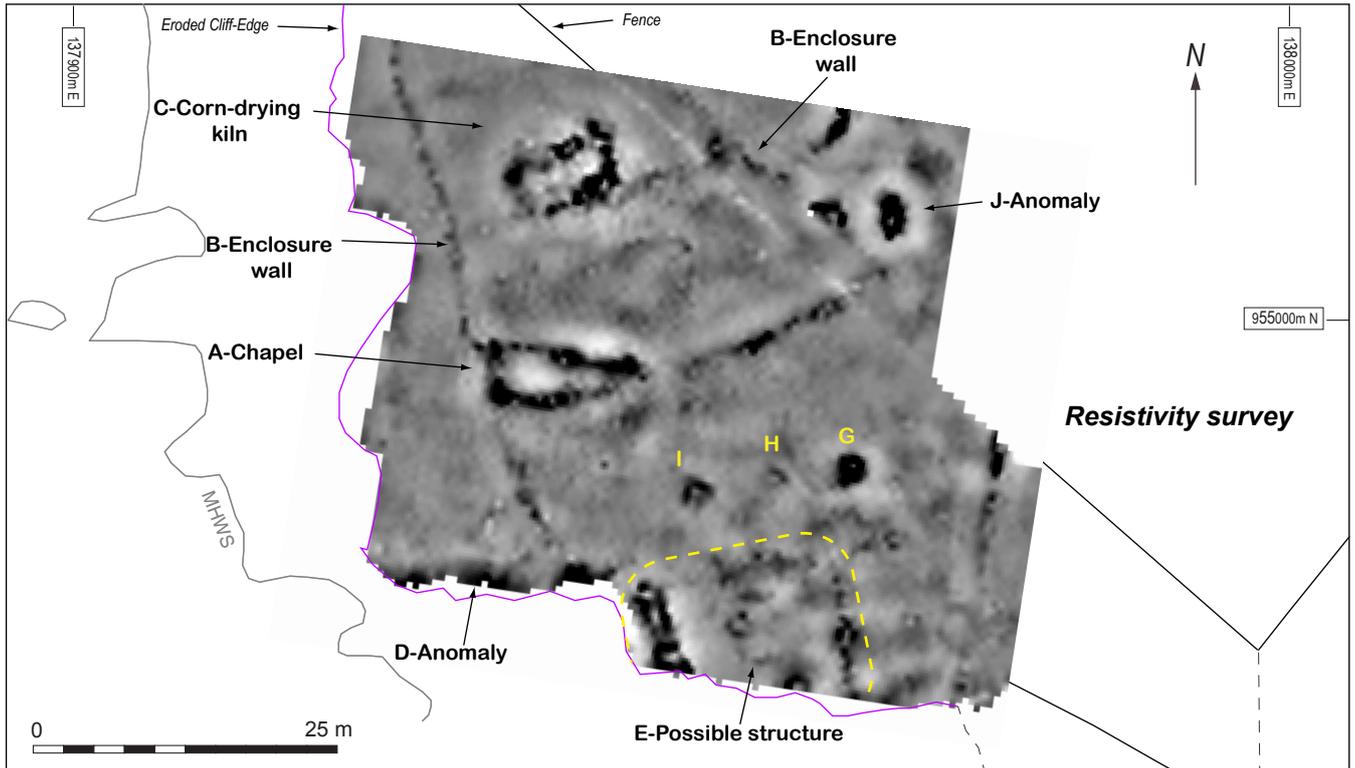


Figure 3:
Results of geophysical survey
at Teampall Pheadair, Siadar.



The area to the south of the Teampall contains several low, grassy banks and mounds, concentrated along the slope towards the cliff edge. These are the remains of eroded structures and banks, and can be seen eroding from the cliff section at the southern edge of the survey area. A large, horseshoe-shaped hollow, around 9 m by 12 m overall, aligned north-west to south-east at the south-west corner of the survey area (Figure 2), is known locally as the spot where stones were removed for local building projects. Adjacent to it to the east are ephemeral indications of banks and walling, and to the north are three probably natural rocky knolls. Outside the enclosed area, on the west side of the site along the cliff edge, there are traces of further ephemeral structures that can be seen eroding in the cliff section to the west (Figure 2). It is possible that these structures pre-date the chapel, as they lie outside the chapel enclosure and are associated with deposits eroding at Rubha Bhlanisgaidh, from which Iron Age pottery has been recovered (see above).

The grass-covered turf and stone enclosure walls to the south and east of the Teampall are clearly part of old field enclosures which appear on the 1st edition OS map (1853). They are associated with the pre-crofting settlement that can be seen as low, grassy bumps and ruined walls to the north-east of the chapel site, extending up the slope along the coast to the north-east in the area of the modern-day crofts, and south-east along Lambol Burn. A short stretch of field wall on the east edge of the survey area (Figure 2) is a double wall built from large orthostats, each up to 1 by 0.8 by 0.4 m, with turf infill. The remaining walls defining the triangular area around the Teampall are lower turf banks, with some angular stones and beach boulders visible. The easternmost of these extends from the top of the cliff to the south, 40 m across the survey area, and continues into the adjacent two fenced crofts, where it turns southwards. On the west side, a low bank extends from the cliff edge south of the Teampall northwards along the cliff top to a small eroding geo outside the north edge of the survey area. On the east side of the Teampall enclosure, a further low turf enclosure bank links these last three enclosures, and mirrors the modern day fence line that marks the extent of the Shader crofts.

6.3.2 *Geophysical Survey*

By Christine Rennie

Comparison of the two sets of raw data obtained from the geophysical survey at Teampall Pheadair (Figure 3) shows that the resistivity survey was the more successful method for detecting features that were partially upstanding at the time of survey. The walls of Teampall Pheadair, the church enclosure and the grain-drying kiln are all revealed as areas of higher resistivity that are often associated with stone structures. Although all of these stone features were detected to some extent by gradiometry, their morphology was not so recognisable and the graphic depiction shows a great deal of disturbance in these areas. Since the gradiometer took readings at a greater depth than the resistivity meter, this disturbance may be explained by the presence of iron-rich inclusions in the Lewisian Gneiss bedrock that lies below the recording depth of the resistivity meter.

Anomaly A

This anomaly can be seen in both sets of results, but is far more recognisable on the resistivity survey data than on the gradiometry, probably due to the iron-rich nature of the bedrock. These are the partially upstanding remains of a roughly rectangular structure that measures about 15 m by 6 m. There appear to be two components to the structure, with the larger of these at the west end. These are the remains of Teampall Pheadair.

Anomaly B

Again, this feature is more readily identifiable on the resistivity survey. It appears as a three-sided linear band of higher resistivity, and corresponds to the partially upstanding remains of a wall. The enclosure is completed by a fourth linear band at the west of the site.

One of the aims of the survey was to locate any graves within the church enclosure and, although this area does show some signs of disturbance, it has not been possible to identify any anomalies that would correspond to grave cuts.

Anomaly C

This oval-shaped feature is upstanding and comprises stone walls that have partly collapsed into the centre. While the shape of the feature is more recognisable on the resistivity plot, two di-poles were iden-

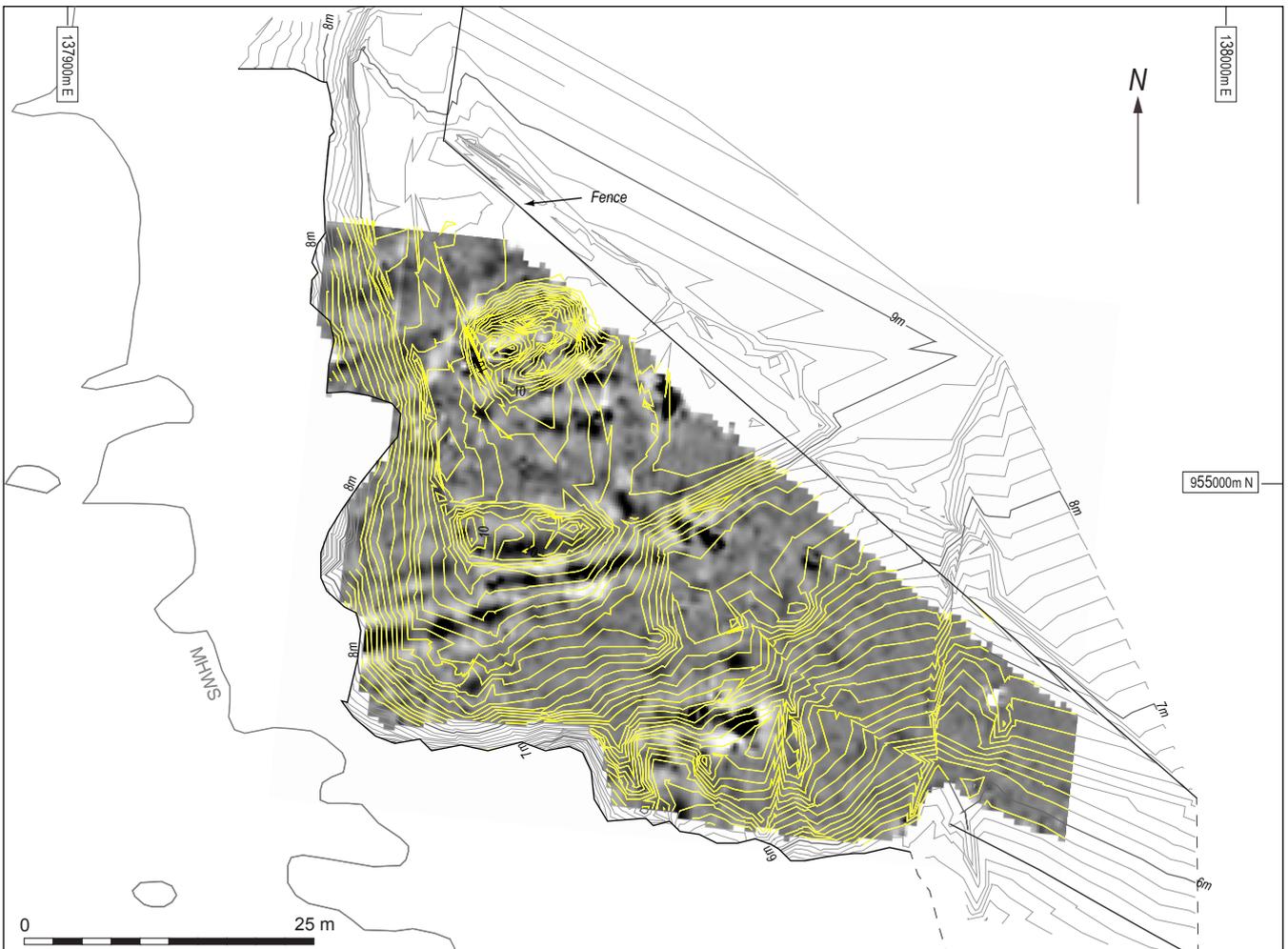
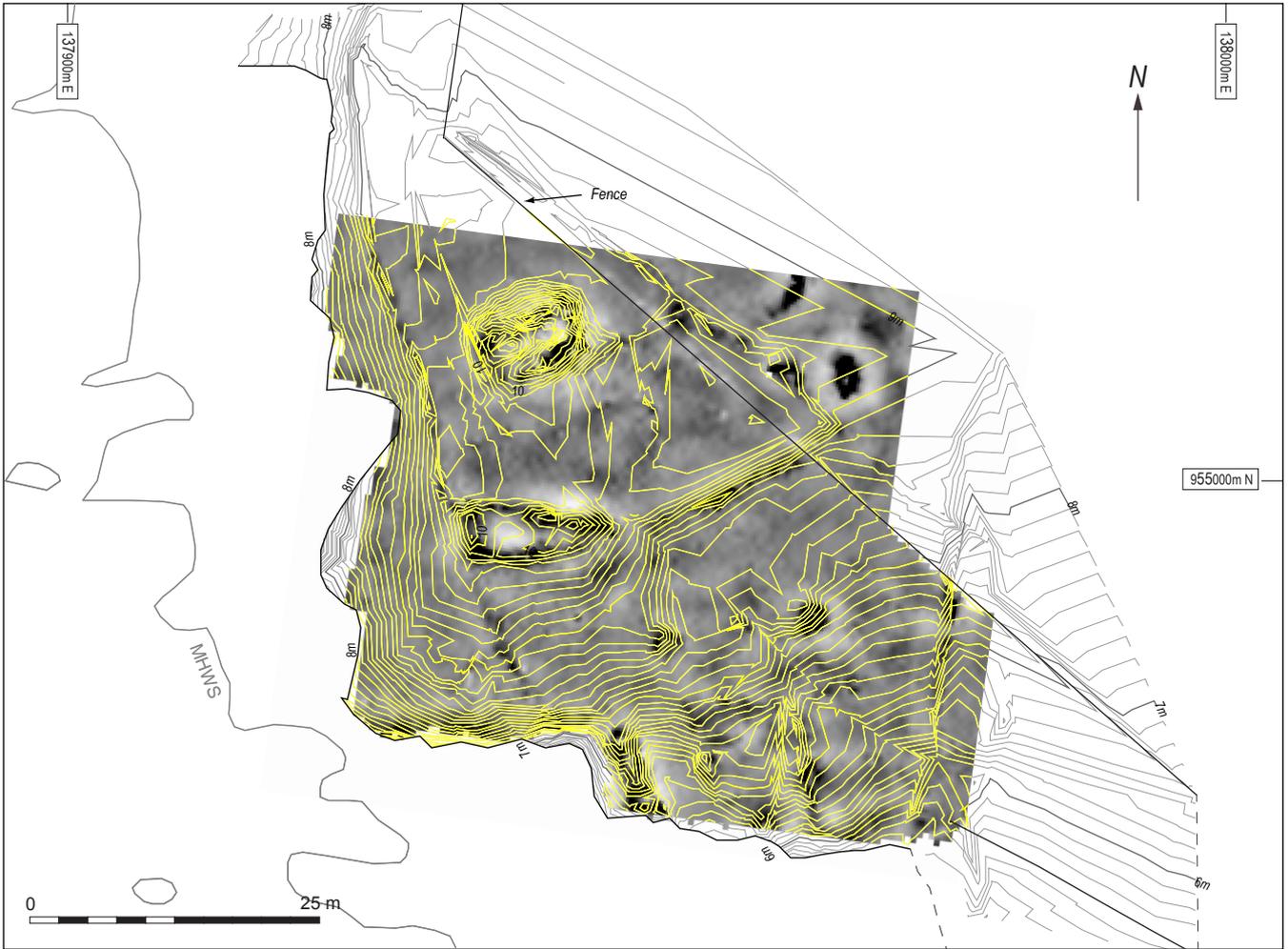


Figure 4: Combined results of geophysical and topographic survey at Teampall Pheadair, Siadar.

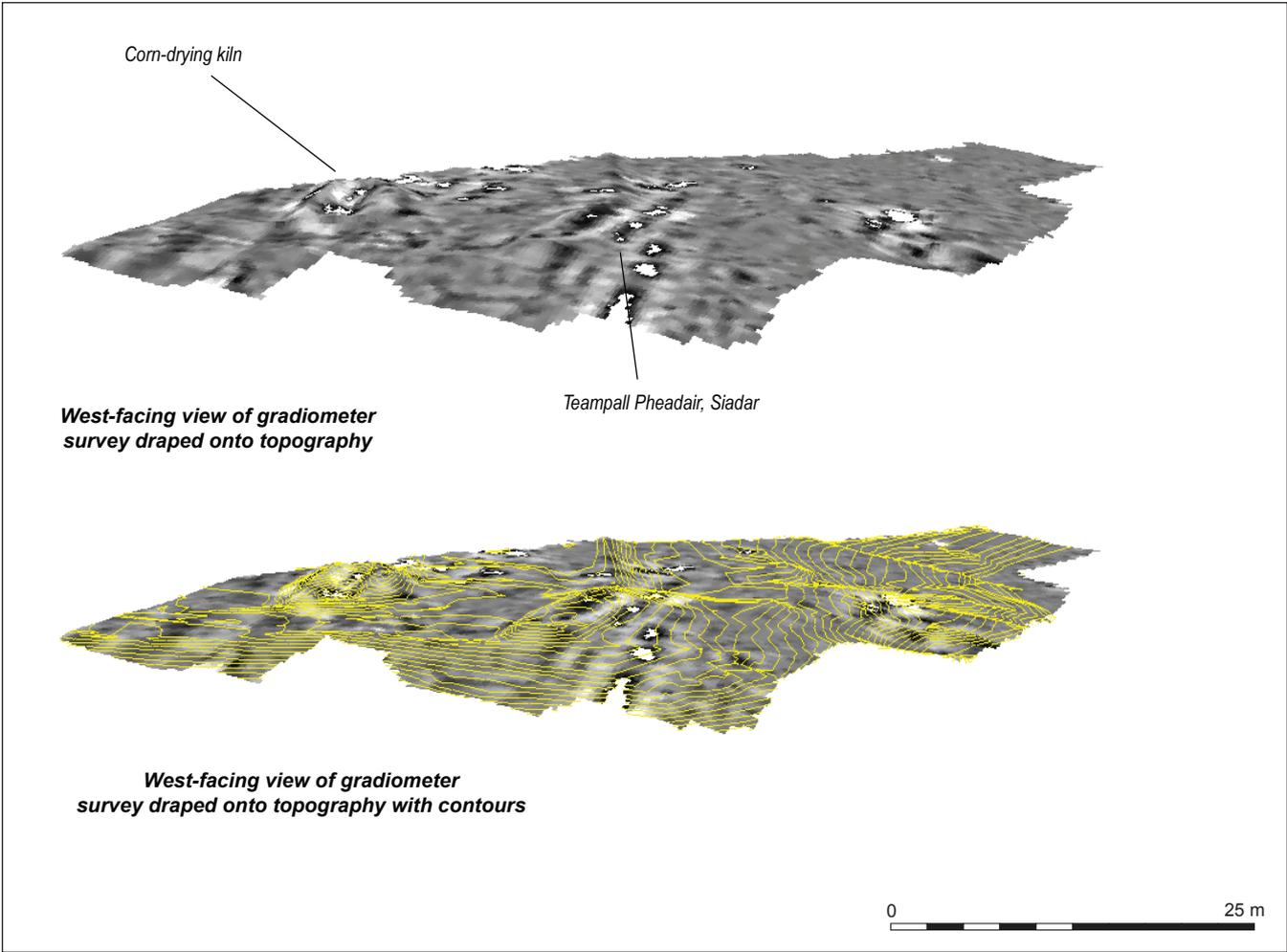
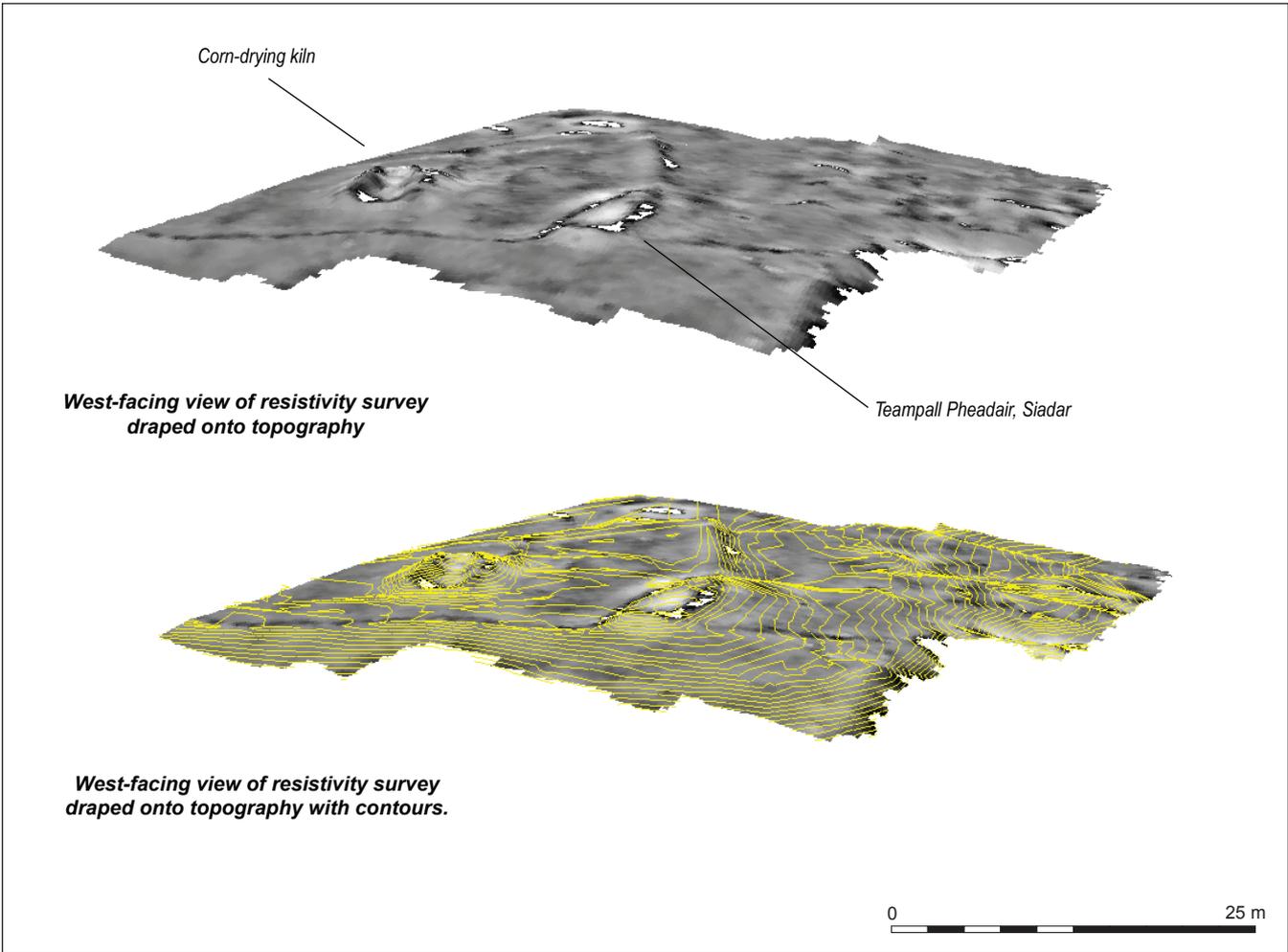


Figure 5: Combined results of geophysical and topographic survey at Teampall Pheadair, Siadar.

tified from the gradiometry survey. A di-pole consists of a negative reading immediately followed by a high positive reading, and can indicate the presence of metal or *in-situ* burning.

During the survey, the rim of a metal vessel was recovered from the west side of this feature. This structure has previously been identified as a corn-drying kiln.

Anomaly D

An area of higher resistivity was recorded at the south-west of the site, and structural stones can be seen in section from the shoreline. As this was not recorded by gradiometry, it is likely that it represents the remains of one or more structures that have now been lost to coastal erosion.

Anomaly E

Two partially upstanding linear dykes are visible on the resistivity survey at the south-east of the site. These surround a visible scoop where, according to local information, stones were removed for other building purposes. Both surveys show this area to be very disturbed, and it is possible that the two stone dykes are the remains of another building.

Anomaly F

A linear band of high positive gradiometry readings runs west from the south edge of Teampall Pheadair. No feature is visible on the ground in this area, and the anomaly was not picked up by resistivity. It is probable that the bedrock is closer to the surface in this particular area, and that the gradiometer has detected the iron minerals within the Lewisian Gneiss.

Anomalies G, H & I

These three anomalies were visible on both surveys and correspond to stony outcrops on the site. They are best seen on the resistivity plot, and have not been filtered out as being geological. It is possible that these are the remains of other structures, but the archaeological or geological nature of these features cannot be determined without excavation.

Anomaly J

This corresponds to a rocky outcrop at the east end of the church enclosure. This too may be structural but, again, the nature of this stone feature cannot be determined without excavation.

6.3.3 *Comparison of the Results*

If the geophysical results are overlain on the topographic survey (Figures 4 and 5), it becomes possible to confirm the presence of ephemeral features that are visible on the ground. In particular, it reveals that there is an area of considerable disturbance at the south edge of the site, with high and low readings in both geophysical surveys indicating eroded structures; this corroborates what the visible features on the ground and in the eroding cliff section suggest.

6.4 *Teampall Eoin, Bragar*

6.4.1 *Topographic Survey*

Teampall Eoin is in the oldest part of Bragar cemetery (Figure 6), which is still in use and has been recently renovated and extended to the north and east. The old entrance to the graveyard can be seen in the south-west corner, where the nineteenth-century gateposts have been built into the cemetery wall. The old part of the cemetery contains over 2,000 graves, most of which are marked with plain boulders that were presumably taken from the ruined chapel building. The Teampall is built into the side of a large sandy mound, 20 m by 12.5 m in extent, on the north-west side of the old graveyard (see shade plot on Figure 6 and Cover Plate). The mound is defined by a pronounced bank on the south-west side, and the graves on the top of the mound, immediately west of the Teampall, are on a different alignment to the graves outside the mound. It appears from the east as if the mound is older than the Teampall, and that the Teampall is built into the side of it. However, there are graves set into the top of the mound on the west side which are marked with boulders probably taken from the ruined chapel, suggesting that they were interred after the collapse of the building and must therefore post-date its use. This then begs the question: where are the older, Medieval burials that accompanied the Teampall when it *was* in use if they

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View of Teampall Eoin, Bragar, from the North-West.

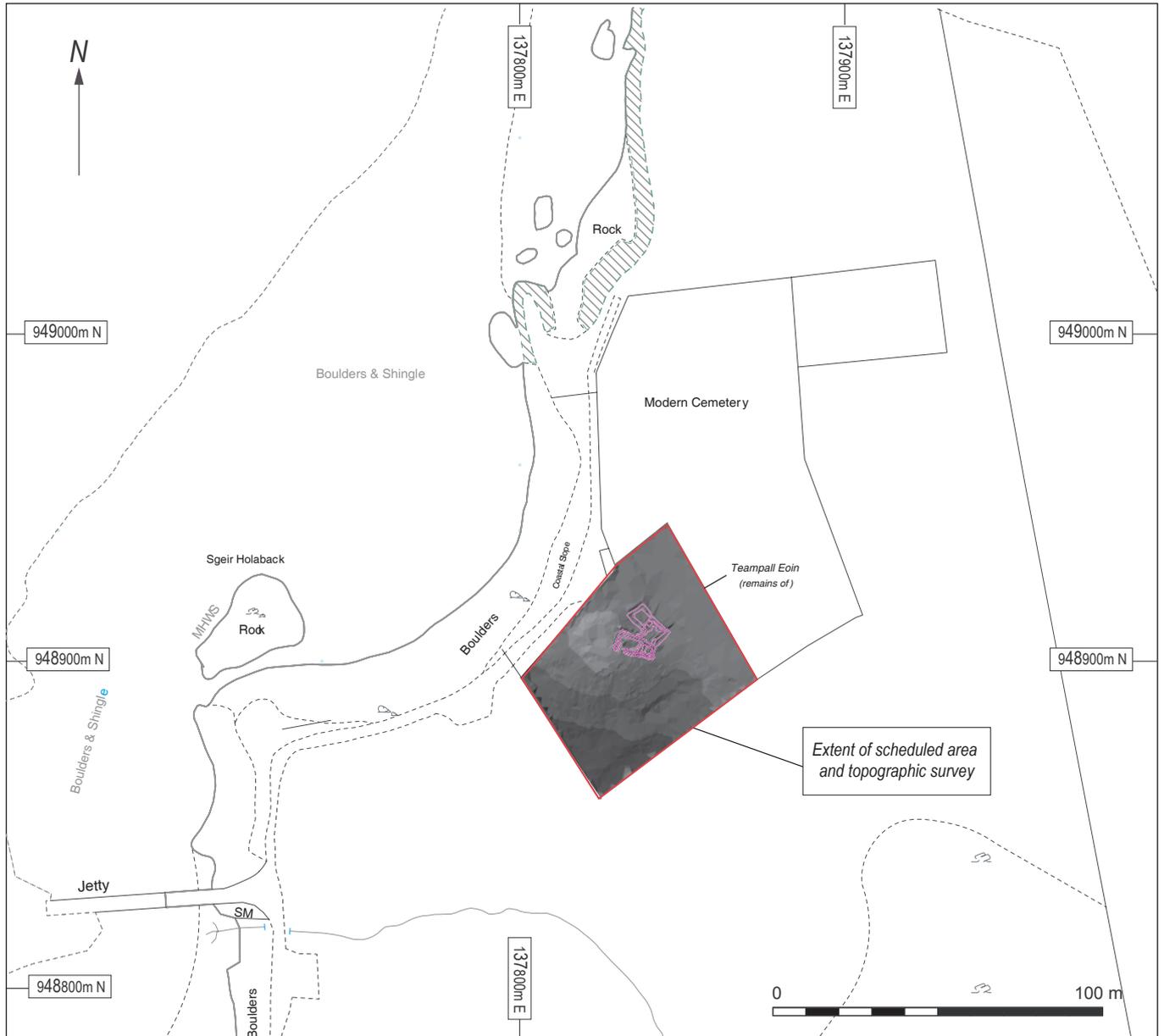


Figure 6: Location of topographic survey at Teampall Eoin, Bragar.

are not adjacent to the ruin? The logical answer is that they are below these later burials, and that the old graveyard became mounded, covering the earlier burials. This may have occurred due to natural windblown sand inundation from Port Mhor, or have been a deliberate enhancement of the cemetery. There are local traditions of sand or soil being imported into other old cemeteries so as to mound up the graveyard to accommodate more burials, for instance at Teampall Chríosd, Baile na Cille (see Barrowman 2005, 51). The topographic survey (Figure 7) also shows that, although there is a slight dip on the north-west (seaward) side of the mound, it extends westwards towards the shore and has since been truncated by the modern cemetery wall and access road.



Plate 14:

Teampall Eoin, Bragar: NW corner of nave and entrance in S wall from SW.



Plate 15:

Teampall Eoin, Bragar: Rubble from fallen chancel arch close up from W.

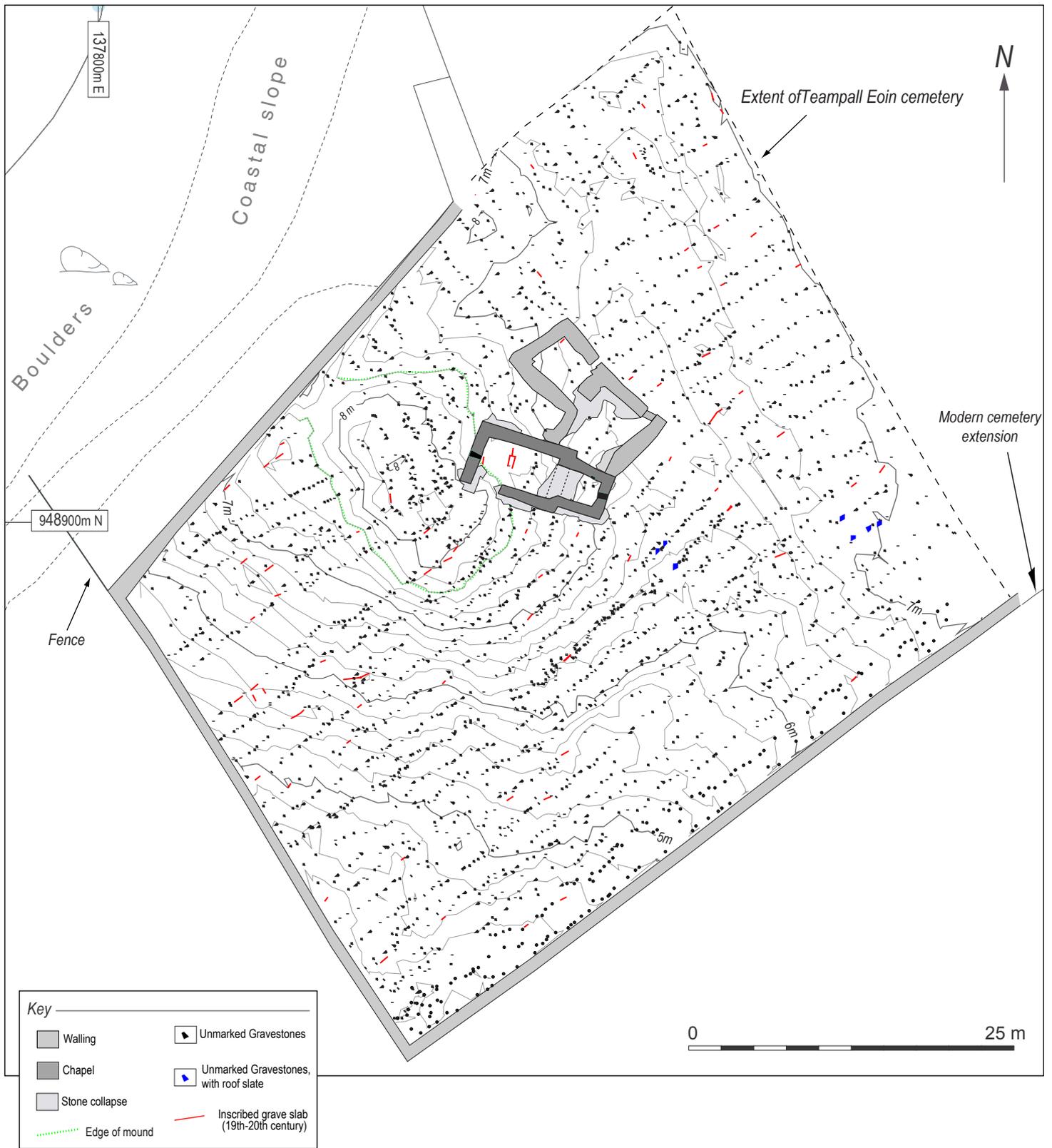


Figure 7: Results of topographic survey at Teampall Eoin, Bragar.

The Teampall building is aligned roughly east to west (actually ESE to WNW), and measures 11.5 m east to west and 5 m north to south externally. Within this, the nave measures 6 m by 3 m internally, and the chancel 3.5 m by 2.5 m (Plate 14). There are two nineteenth- or twentieth-century inscribed gravestones, as well as rows of unmarked grave stones, in the nave. The building is reasonably well preserved, with the four walls standing to roof height. However, the building is under threat of collapse in the medium term, as evidenced by the collapse that occurred after the site was described by the RCAHMS in 1921 and the OS in 1969 (see above). In particular the chancel arch, which is shown in photographs in the Royal Commission volume, had collapsed by the time of the OS visit. The collapsed masonry is still present inside the chapel building as a long mound of rubble, 2.5 m thick and up to 1 m high, across the nave/chancel junction (Plate 15). There are two flat-headed window openings, one in the west gable end (Plate 21) and one in the east chancel gable end. A third on the south side of the chancel is now obscured by collapse (Plate 16). The discovery of roofing slates re-used as grave markers in the graveyard is very interesting, and suggests that the Teampall once had a roof of stone tiles or slates (rather than thatch, which is evidenced at other, larger churches on Lewis, such as Teampall Pheadair in Suainebost; see Barrowman 2006, 15).



Plate 16:

Teampall Eoin, Bragar: Detail of collapsed S wall of chancel from SE.



Plate 17:

Teampall Eoin, Bragar: Enclosures on N side of Teampall from ENE.

Two adjoining enclosures of unknown use are built onto the north wall of the Teampall, on a slightly different alignment to it, being aligned north-east to south-west (Plate 17). They are built from roughly built drystone walling, and each has an entrance on the north-east side. The west entrance is 0.5 m wide, while the east, which has a low lintel over it, is 0.8 m wide. There is also a gap between the two enclosures, 0.8 m wide. The rubble walling stands up to 1 m in height and is up to 1 m thick, and it is possible that the stone is from the ruined chapel. Lines of gravestones continue into the enclosures, suggesting that the enclosures post-date the graves. The enclosures clearly abut the Teampall and are later than it and of rougher build. There are no modern burials within them.

The recording of over 2,000 burials in the old cemetery has made it possible to study the different patterns and alignments, and possibly phases, of grave markers within the graveyard. This shows that on the Teampall mound the stones are less well-ordered than in the rest of the old cemetery, being mixed in their alignment and position. This may suggest that there are different chronological phases of burial on this part of the site, rather than the sequential addition of burials along pre-determined lines, as elsewhere in the old cemetery.

7.0 Conclusions, Outstanding Work and Recommendations

The topographic surveys undertaken in 2008 have demonstrated the archaeological importance of the Lewis chapel-sites of Teampall Pheadair, Siadar, and Teampall Eoin, Bragar, both of which are under threat from erosion and/or collapse. At Teampall Pheadair, the footings of the chapel building and enclosure with possible grave stones were recorded as well as later pre-crofting remains, such as a corn-drying kiln, enclosure and field walls linked to the pre-crofting settlement of Upper Siadar. Below these, the geophysical survey confirmed the presence of ephemeral, robbed, earlier buildings situated along the coastal edge below the chapel-site, with shadowy indications of further remains below the chapel enclosure. These remains are all under imminent, if not immediate, threat from coastal erosion, especially along the eroded cliff edge to the south and west of the site (Figure 2). However, the Siadar community are pursuing an application for a wave-power generator in the bay at Mol Eire, and a side effect of the development would be a breakwater, which could deflect wave action from this part of the coastline. Bearing this in mind, it is recommended that the site be monitored until the consultation and planning process for the development have been completed.

At Teampall Eoin, the topographic survey recorded a plan of the chapel and adjacent enclosures, and also a survey of the old graveyard and the positions of all the gravestones within it. The resulting plan shows potential differences in the alignment and possibly date of the different groups of burials. The detailed contour survey has revealed the extent and position of the sandy mound on the west side of the graveyard, and the position of the chapel and gravestones on it. This mound is potentially the oldest part of the site; it may originally have extended further west towards the coast, and there are probably older burials and possibly even an earlier church below it. The later enclosures and the nineteenth- or twentieth-century grave stones in the old graveyard have also been recorded, as well as the locations of roofing slates used as grave markers, which may have originated from the Medieval chapel roof. While the graveyard and mound are not at threat from coastal erosion on this site, it is recommended that in the near future a standing building survey be conducted of the chapel building at Teampall Eoin, as it is under threat from further collapse.

Outstanding work from the three seasons of Lewis Chapel-sites Survey undertaken since 2004 includes the topographic survey of Airigh na h-Annaidean on Garbh Eilean in the Shiant Isles, and of Tigh a'Bheannaich in Aird Uig on Lewis. This is due to bad weather halting certain phases of the fieldwork. There is also outstanding (ongoing) desk-based and historical research that can be undertaken for these sites as more information becomes available, and also further walkover survey to locate the 'lost' sites and previously unknown potential chapel-sites. Plane table survey of sites that have not been surveyed, are not immediately threatened and have therefore not been prioritised could also be undertaken with local volunteers in the future.

Overall, however, the Lewis Coastal Chapel-sites Survey has successfully recorded through desk-based research, topographic survey (plane table and EDM) and geophysical survey the most threatened chapel-sites around the coasts of Lewis before they suffer further damage from coastal erosion. The data collected is now to be analysed in a forthcoming article that will examine this fascinating group of archaeological sites.

8.0 Acknowledgements

Special thanks go to Charlotte Francoz, who undertook the topographic surveys at Teampall Pheadair and Teampall Eoin with Rachel Barrowman, and to Christine Rennie and Edouard Masson-MacLean, who undertook the geophysical surveys at Teampall Pheadair. Christine Rennie processed and analysed the geophysical data and produced the geophysics plots, while Charlotte Francoz produced the survey drawings and illustrations for the report. John Arthur produced the location map, Aileen Maule provided the crucial technical support and Jen Cochrane DTP'd the report. Thanks also go to Dr John Raven, Historic Scotland Inspector for the Western Isles, for his help and advice.

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10.0 Appendices

Appendix A: Stray Finds Collected During the Course of the Project, February 2004 – March 2008

<i>No</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>NGR</i>	<i>Date</i>
1	Teampall nan Cro' Naomh, Galson	Pumice, coarse pottery sherd and fragment of ?human bone from cliff section on north west side of graveyard	NB 43243 59233	28/5/04
2	Teampall Pheadair, Siadar	Seven sherds of coarse pottery	NB 37965 54960	2004
3	Taigh nan Cailleachan Dubha, Mealastadh	Two coarse pottery sherds from cliff section west of site	NB 99025 24095	21/7/04
4	Teampall Eoin, Bragar	Pottery from midden eroding out of cliff to north west of site on opposite side of road up to graveyard	NB 28822 48995	11/2/08
5	Teampall Pheadair, Siadar	Fragment of iron vessel from rabbit burrow in corn-drying kiln to north of chapel	NB 37958 55008	13/8/08
6	Teampall Pheadair, Siadar	Three coarse pottery sherds and three fish vertebrae	NB 37970 54995	19/2/08

Appendix B: Digital photographs 2007-8

Digital images were captured using a Canon EOS 350D digital camera and all files are .jpegs

Teampall Eoin, Bragar

<i>Frame</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>From</i>
001	General view	NE
002	General view	NE
003	General view	NE
004	General view	NE
005	General view	NE
006	General view	NE
007	General view	NE
008	General view	NE
009	General view	NE
010	General view	ENE
011	General view	ENE
012	General view	ENE
013	General view	ENE
014	General view	ENE
015	General view	ENE
016	General view	ENE
017	General view	ENE
018	General view	ENE
019	General view	ENE
020	General view	E
021	General view	E
022	General view	E
023	General view	E
024	General view	E
025	General view	SE
026	General view	SE
027	General view	SE
028	Gravestones at SE side of graveyard	NE

<i>Frame</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>From</i>
029	General view	SSE
030	General view	SSE
031	General view	S
032	General view	S
033	General view	SW
034	General view	SW
035	Gravestones on SE side of graveyard	SW
036	Gravestones on SE side of graveyard	SW
037	General view	SW
038	General view	SW
039	Gravestones on SE side of graveyard	SW
040	General view	SW
041	General view	SW
042	General view	WSW
043	General view	WSW
044	General view	WSW
045	General view	W
046	General view	W
047	General view	W
048	General view	W
049	General view	NW
050	General view	NW
051	General view	NW
052	General view	NW
053	General view	NW
054	General view	NW
055	E entrance into enclosures on N side of chapel	NE
056	W entrance into enclosures on N side of chapel	NE
057	General view	NE
058	General view	NE
059	General view	NE
060	W entrance into enclosures on N side of chapel	NE
061	General view	NE
062	Enclosures on N side of chapel close up	NE
063	General view	E
064	E gable end	E
065	E gable end close up	E
066	Collapsed S wall of chancel close-up	SE
067	S wall of nave and chancel	SE
068	NW corner of nave and entrance in S wall	SW
069	W gable end close up	NW
070	Enclosures on N side of chapel	NW
071	W gable end close up	NW
072	Interior of nave	W
073	Window in W gable end from interior	E
074	Window in W gable end from interior	E
075	Rubble from fallen chancel arch close up	W
076	Window in W gable end from interior	SE
077	Rubble from fallen chancel arch close up	W
078	Rubble from fallen chancel arch close up	W
079	Looking E along N wall of chapel	NW
081	Roof slate grave marker 1	SE
082	Roof slate grave marker 1 close up	SE
083	Roof slate grave marker 1	NW
084	Roof slate grave marker 1	NW
085	Roof slate grave marker 2	SE
086	Roof slate grave marker 2 close up	SE

<i>Frame</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>From</i>
087	Roof slate grave marker 3	E
088	Roof slate grave marker 3	E
089	Roof slate grave marker 4	SE
090	Roof slate grave marker 4 close up	SE
091	Roof slate grave marker 4 close up	SE
092	Roof slate grave markers 5 and 6	-
093	Roof slate grave marker 5 close up	SE
095	Roof slate grave marker 6 close up	SE
096	Roof slate grave marker 6 close up	SE
097	Roof slate grave marker 6 close up	NW
102	SE side of graveyard	NE
103	SE side of graveyard	NE
104	General view	NE

Teampall Pheadair, Siadar

2007

<i>Frame</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>From</i>
1	General shot	E
2	General shot	E
3	Hollow on S side of site	SE
4	Hollow on S side of site	SE
5	Track to N of site	S
6	Track to N of site	S
7	Track to N of site	S
10	Track to N of site	N
11	Track to N of site	N
12	Track to N of site	N
13	Erosion at coast at N edge of site	NW
14	Erosion at coast at N edge of site	NW
15	Erosion at coast at N edge of site	NW
16	Erosion at coast at N edge of site	NW
17	Erosion at coast at N edge of site	N
17	Erosion at coast at N edge of site	N
19	Erosion at coast at N edge of site where enclosure wall is cut by geo	N
20	Erosion at coast at N edge of site where enclosure wall is cut by geo	N
21	Erosion at coast at N edge of site where enclosure wall is cut by geo	N
22	Erosion at coast at N edge of site where enclosure wall is cut by geo	N
23	N end of enclosure bank on W side of site	NE
24	N end of enclosure bank on W side of site	NE
25	N end of enclosure bank on W side of site	NE
26	N end of enclosure bank on W side of site	NE
29	Low stone and turf bank	SE
30	Corn-drying kiln	NW
31	Corn-drying kiln	NW
32	Corn-drying kiln	NW
33	Corn-drying kiln	S
34	SE corner of enclosure around chapel	E
35	Chapel, enclosure and corn-drying kiln	E
36	Chapel, enclosure and corn-drying kiln	E
37	Enclosure wall	S
38	Enclosure wall	N
39	Teampall Pheadair	N
40	Teampall Pheadair	W
41	Teampall Pheadair	W
42	Teampall Pheadair	W
43	Teampall Pheadair	SW

<i>Frame</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>From</i>
44	Teampall Pheadair	E
45	Teampall Pheadair	E
46	Teampall Pheadair	E
47	Teampall Pheadair	E
48	Teampall Pheadair outer face of N wall	E
49	Teampall Pheadair W enclosure wall	S
50	Teampall Pheadair W enclosure wall	S
51	Teampall Pheadair W enclosure wall	S
52	Hollow on S side of site	N
53	Hollow on S side of site	S
54	Hollow on S side of site	S
55	Hollow on S side of site	N
56	Eroded structure at Rubha Bhlanisgaidh	W
57	Structure at south edge of scheduled area	N
58	Structure at south edge of scheduled area	S
59	Turf and stone wall to S of teampall	W
60	Turf and stone wall to S of teampall	W
61	Rubha Bhlanisgaidh erosion E end	S
62	Rubha Bhlanisgaidh erosion at point of eroded structures E end	S
63	Rubha Bhlanisgaidh erosion at point of eroded structures middle	S
64	Rubha Bhlanisgaidh erosion at point of eroded structures W end	S
65	Rubha Bhlanisgaidh erosion at point of eroded structures W end	S
66	Rubh Bhlanisgaidh erosion at point of eroding geo	S

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<i>Frame</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>From</i>
1	Stoup in N wall	N
2	Stoup in N wall	S Above
3	Possible gravestone	Above
4	Possible gravestone	Above
5	Entrance through enclosure wall around chapel	E
6	Entrance through enclosure wall around chapel	E
7	Entrance through enclosure wall around chapel	E
8	Action shot	-
14	Track across enclosure wall	NW
15	Track	SE
16	Geophysics grid	SE
18	Action shot	-
19	Action shot	-
20	Action shot	-
25	Action shot	-
26	Enclosure wall with orthostats	S
27	Rubha Bhlanisgaidh eroding structure	W
28	Rubha Bhlanisgaidh eroding structure	W
29	Eroding geo north of chapel	W
30	Structure eroding in cliff at Rubha Bhlanisgaidh	W
31	Structure eroding in cliff at Rubha Bhlanisgaidh	W
32	Structure eroding in cliff at Rubha Bhlanisgaidh	W
33	Structure eroding in cliff at Rubha Bhlanisgaidh	W
34	Structure eroding in cliff at Rubha Bhlanisgaidh	W
35	Structure eroding in cliff at Rubha Bhlanisgaidh	W
36	Structure eroding in cliff at Rubha Bhlanisgaidh	W
37	Structure eroding in cliff at Rubha Bhlanisgaidh	W
40	Walling eroding in area of eroding structures	Above W
42	Grassy hillocks	W
43	Action shot	

<i>Frame</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>From</i>
44	Action shot	-
45	Eroding geo at S edge of area	Above E
46	Action shot	-
47	Action shot	-
48	N end of track	S
49	Corn-drying kiln	E

2008 Geophysical survey

<i>Frame</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>From</i>
1	Action shot	-
2	Action shot	-
3	Action shot	-
4	Action shot	-
5	Action shot	-
6	Action shot	-
7	Action shot	-
8	Action shot	-
9	Action shot	-
10	Eroding walling in rabbit burrow on S side of site	S
11	Entrance through enclosure wall around chapel	E
12	Action shot	-
13	Action shot	-
14	Action shot	-
15	Action shot	-
16	Action shot	-
17	Action shot	-
18	Action shot	-
19	Action shot	-
20	Action shot	-
22	Tobar Mhoire from above	Above
23	Tobar Mhoire from above	Above